(c) if so, whether Government are considering any proposal to set up new food processing industries in North-Eastern Region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) A variety of horticulture crops like oranges, pineapples, ginger etc. are grown in the North Eastern Region. Processing facilities in the North Eastern Region are generally inadequate. With a view to encourage creation of processing facilities, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries @ 25% of the cost of the plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh for general areas and @ 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs for difficult areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, higher level of assistance is available upto 50% of the capital cost subject to Rs. 4 crores for the new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for modernization of the existing units. The Ministry does not set up Food Processing Industries of its own.

Wastage of food Items

†2020. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the food items get wasted due to lack of processing facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact the condition of the above industry is deteriorating day by day as a result of neglect by Government;

(c) if so, the plan of Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the status of the said industry in our country in comparison to other countries specially China; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the details of the efforts being made by Government to promote the said food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of the agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. As per the National Accounts Statistics 2005 average annual GDP growth rate of FPI including tobacco in the country during 2000-01 to 2003-04 was 7.86%. The Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries. In order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government in 2004-05 has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. In the Budget of 2005-06 customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the Budget 2006-07 the Government has announced to exempt excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast. Excise duty on ready-to-eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes reduced from 16 per cent to 8 percent. Excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24 per cent to 16 per cent.

Increase of HIV/AIDS cases

†2021. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of cases of HIV/AIDS is increasing in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.